

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON,

Plaintiff,

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:17-01362

AMERISOURCEBERGEN DRUG
CORPORATION, et al.,

Defendants.

CABELL COUNTY COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:17-01665

AMERISOURCEBERGEN DRUG
CORPORATION, et al.,

Defendants.

DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITY

Defendants respectfully submit the Sixth Circuit's decision in *In re Nat'l Prescription Opiate Litigation*, 2020 WL 1875174 (6th Cir. Apr. 15, 2020) (Exhibit A), as supplemental authority relevant to Defendants' Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion to Adopt the MDL Court's August 19, 2019, Order Regarding the Federal Controlled Substances Act that was Entered in Different Cases (Dkt. No. 235).

The Sixth Circuit issued a writ of mandamus to strike amendments that had been allowed by the MDL court to a complaint against pharmacy defendants, but did not meet the standards required by the Federal Rules. The Court of Appeals declared that the MDL court's "mistake was

to think it had authority to disregard the [Federal] Rules’ requirements” in “favor of enhancing the efficiency of the MDL as a whole.” *Id.* at *7. The Court found that the extraordinary remedy of mandamus was justified and held that: “[t]he rule of law applies in multidistrict litigation under 28 U.S.C. § 1407 just as it does in any individual case. … [A]s the Supreme Court has made clear, every case in an MDL (other than cases for which there is a consolidated complaint) retains its individual character.” *Id.* at *1; *see also id.* at *7 (relying on *Gelboim v. Bank of Am. Corp.*, 574 U.S. 405 (2015), on which Defendants relied in their opposition filed in this Court, *see Dkt No. 235 at 7*).

The Sixth Circuit’s decision provides additional support for Defendants’ argument that the MDL court’s August 19, 2019 ruling, made in different cases, is not law of the case or binding on this Court in this case. *See Dkt No. 235 at 2–12.* The Sixth Circuit decision is especially relevant here because the August 19 ruling was an interlocutory order in a suit brought by two Ohio counties involving Ohio common law and RICO, not a public nuisance claim under West Virginia law as raised here. The Sixth Circuit’s opinion emphasized two related principles: (1) “Section 1407 refers to individual ‘actions’ which may be transferred to a single district court, not to any monolithic multidistrict ‘action’ created by transfer,” and (2) “a district court’s decision … in an individual case [must] depend[] on the record in that case and not others.” *In re Nat'l Prescription Opiate Litig.*, 2020 WL 1875174, at *4 (quotation omitted).

Dated: April 23, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey M. Wakefield

Jeffrey M. Wakefield (WVSB #3894)
Jason L. Holliday (WVSB #12749)
FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO PLLC
P.O. Box. 3843
Charleston, WV 25338-3843
Tel: (304) 345-0200
jwakefield@flahertylegal.com
jholliday@flahertylegal.com

/s/ Carol Dan Browning

Carol Dan Browning
Stites & Harbison, PLLC
400 West Market Street, Suite 1800
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
Tel: (502) 587-3400
Fax: (502) 587-6391
cbrowning@stites.com

/s/ Timothy C. Hester

Timothy C. Hester
Mark H. Lynch
Christian J. Pistilli
Laura Flahive Wu
COVINGTON & BURLING LLP
One CityCenter
850 Tenth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: (202) 662-5324
thester@cov.com
mlynch@cov.com
cpistilli@cov.com
lflahivewu@cov.com

Counsel for McKesson Corporation

/s/ Gretchen M. Callas

Gretchen M. Callas (WVSB #7136)
JACKSON KELLY PLLC
Post Office Box 553
Charleston, West Virginia 25322
Tel: (304) 340-1000

Fax: (304) 340-1050
gcallas@jacksonkelly.com

Robert A. Nicholas
Shannon E. McClure
REED SMITH LLP
Three Logan Square
1717 Arch Street, Suite 3100
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Tel: (215) 851-8100
Fax: (215) 851-1420
rnicholas@reedsmit.com
smcclure@reedsmit.com

*Counsel for AmerisourceBergen
Drug Corporation*

/s/ Steven R. Ruby
Brian A. Glasser (WVSB #6597)
Steven R. Ruby (WVSB #10752)
Raymond S. Franks II (WVSB #6523)
BAILEY GLASSER LLP
209 Capitol Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25301
Telephone: (304) 345-6555
Facsimile: (304) 342-1110
Counsel in Cabell County action

Enu Mainigi
F. Lane Heard III
Ashley W. Hardin
WILLIAMS & CONNOLLY LLP
725 Twelfth Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 434-5000
Fax: (202) 434-5029
emainigi@wc.com
lheard @wc.com
ahardin@wc.com

Counsel for Cardinal Health, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned counsel hereby certifies that on this 23rd day of April, the foregoing “**Defendants’ Notice Of Supplemental Authority**” was served using the Court’s CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ Jeffrey M Wakefield
Jeffrey M. Wakefield (WVSB #3894)